

THE OFFICIAL REPORT

Of the Labor Assembly Committee's Visit to the "Pen."

TOLD TO GO TO THE LEGISLATURE

For Relief From the Provisions of the Existing Prison Convict Labor Laws. The Tunnel Project to Go to Council—Labor People and Military Enrollment—Politics a Feature of the Discussion Yesterday—Other Business Transacted.

The Ohio Valley Labor and Trades Assembly met in regular session at its rooms on Market street yesterday afternoon. The attendance of delegates was somewhat better than at the meetings of the past month, and the interest in the proceedings pronounced.

The following new delegates were obligated:

Musical Protective Union—John Bachman, Joseph Katterbach, W. H. Paul, Charles Doane, Joseph Meister.

K. of L. No. 255—Alpha Peaks.

The miners' and pottery strikes were reported to the assembly. The Wheeling creek coal miners' strike was reported satisfactorily settled.

The pottery workers reported the names of three packers at a local notary for the blacklist. The matter was referred to the arbitration committee for consideration.

The typographical union's delegates reported No. 79 has been unable to do anything looking to the unionizing of the Corner Stone office. A resolution boycotting the paper in question was passed.

The report of the West Virginia legislative committee regarding its visit to the state penitentiary board was read by the secretary.

"Your legislative committee as instructed by this body appeared before the state penitentiary board on Wednesday last to enter a protest against the introduction of the manufacture of hollow ware in that institution. Brother Dobler and others addressed the board in opposition to the hollow ware scheme, principally on the contract system of hiring convicts or in other words selling their day's labor for forty-two cents to parties who made over one dollar and fifty cents on their daily product. Besides the product of such labor coming in competition with the product of free labor had a ruinous effect on the market price of labor, as well as forcing manufacture engaged in the hollow ware industry out of the market and throwing their employees out of employment making work scarce and labor plenty."

"Mr. McNabb, a hollow ware moulder and manufacturer from Bellaire, accompanied the committee in the interest of the moulder of the Ohio Valley. This gentleman made a statement from his knowledge and experience in the business for a number of years. He said that one dozen No. 8 tea kettles made by free labor cost \$4 in the Bellaire market when a dozen of the same kind of penitentiary made article, sold in the same place for \$2.80. The board did not seem to overestimate the remarks of Mr. McNabb, as he was asked in the commencement of his statement where he worked and where such manufacturing establishments were located; he answered in Bellaire Ohio. Then the board had no further use for him, and promptly asked the question of your committee if any hollow ware was made in this state. To this question we had to answer no, but were here to protest against this industry being introduced in this institution through the appeals and request of organized labor through the state, and that on this account our mission was to fight the new plan on general principles."

"Then we were asked if we could propose any scheme whereby the convicts could be employed, where their labor would not compete organized labor and keep that institution as a self-sustaining one. We answered by saying that they should be utilized in making county roads through the state. One of the board said that the last legislature made some law bearing on this question but nobody seemed to put it in force or made any application whatever for convicts to work on county roads, and that there were nearly two hundred in the pen getting 'big with laziness' and something must be done to put them to work. Your committee on pressing the question of the injury and ruinous effect the prison contract labor would have on free labor was answered in this manner by Captain Chipley of the board, that it was organized labor through its constant boycotts that forced manufacturers and capitalists to turn to penal institutions for the labor of convicts under the contract system. This gentleman was answered promptly that greedy employers and capitalists had made application for prison labor before the word boycott was known. The captain after-

ward modified his remarks and spoke in a more conciliatory manner and was more disposed to agree that prison labor was a menace to free labor.

Mr. McIntosh, president of the board, stated that the position and duty of the board was a very trying one, in a certain sense; they sympathized with organized labor, but the law governing the institution says that prisoners must be confined at hard labor, and as there was a large number of convicts having nothing to do, the board was trying which would be the best means of utilizing their work. The warden of the penitentiary was present and combated your committee's opposition to the introduction of the hollow ware innovation very forcibly and quoted from the clerk's report to the board that the institution was not within \$10,000 of being self-sustaining in the last year. We were told by others of the board that the best place to go for redress of the prison contract system would be before the state legislature.

"As the board did not show any decided inclination to give us any assurance that it would or would not introduce the hollow ware, your committee and the board broke up the meeting by getting to their feet and branching off in two and three, discussing the matter in every way they thought best, until your committee thought their business was done, and thanked the board for the kind and courteous treatment received."

A delegate introduced the following resolution regarding the report and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The committee's report shows that the present administration of this state is not in harmony with the views of the voters of the party on the question of extending the system of contract convict labor in our penitentiary and that advantage is thus taken by a few of the political managers to secure by a long contract the extension of the system by introducing the foundry business in the institution after the repeated protests of the citizens of the state; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the legislature committee be and are hereby instructed to call at an early date a public meeting of the voters of this community irrespective of party for the purpose of protesting against the introduction of the foundry business in our penal institution.

The introduction of the resolution precipitated a heated and excited discussion which after a time developed into politics and the delegates had to be called to order by President Robertson. The sentiment was entirely, almost, in favor of making as vigorous a protest as possible against the introduction of contract labor made hollow ware.

One delegate, ex-President Dobler, protested against the resolution on the ground that it brings up what is not germane, the question of politics, and appealed to the delegates to consider the spirit of the resolution. Finally, the gentleman who introduced the resolution moved to strike out the preamble, and this course was taken. The resolution was then passed.

The West Virginia legislative committee reported the tunnel people will have their papers ready to present to council to-morrow evening. The president said Mr. John A. Howard would assist in the preparing of the necessary legal papers.

The Ohio legislative committee reported it had recommended the appointment of Mr. McCough, as mine inspector. Secretary Salisbury reported the Martin's Ferry Hod-carriers' Union is dead.

The arbitration committee reported on the Justice Arkle line trouble. The county commissioners had promised to investigate the squire's action, and the commissioner's met Thursday evening, but on account of sickness Mr. Arkle was not present. Another meeting will be held soon at which the squire will be present. The report was received by the assembly.

The chairman of the organization committee reported an assembly of the Riversiders had been organized and joined the Knights of Labor. Another delegate attended the meeting Saturday night and said application for a charter had been made. New members are coming in the new local, and the sentiment seems in favor of a good solid organization.

The chairman of the arbitration committee, William Mann offered his resignation which was accepted. A number of bills from committees were received and ordered paid. The West Virginia legislative committee chairman said assurances from representatives had been received that they would be against the increase in the tobacco tax. As it now seems likely the senate will report an increased tax, he suggested Mr. P. F. Farrell appear before the congressional committee and see that the recently passed resolutions of local labor organizations are properly placed before the national legislators. Mr. Dobler said he had letters from Senators Camden and Faulkner, who promised to do all possible in the matter. Delegate Farrell was authorized to represent the assembly at Washington.

Nominations for the chairmanship of the arbitration committee were made. Mr. Harry Hocking was named, but declined to act; John Minkemeyer likewise declined; W. H. H. Riley declined; J. H. Burtt was named, but declined; P. F. Farrell declined. Michael Grogan was nominated. Mr. Jere Merd urged Mr. Riley to accept the nomination, but that gentleman again declined. President Robertson urged Mr. Grogan to accept; there is no better fitted man in the assembly for the position; the gentleman persisted in his declination. Finally President Robertson was named and numerous seconds were heard, but the gentleman wouldn't have it. Others were nominated but refused to serve. The matter was laid over until the next meeting, the president in the meantime to solicit some one to serve.

President Robertson called attention to a movement inaugurated by the Typographical union, a resolution passed by it deprecating the membership joining any military company. It was suggested a similar resolution be passed by the assembly to apply to all labor unions affiliated with the assembly. A resolution regarding the military matter was introduced, as follows:

Resolved, That we endorse and approve the resolution adopted by the Typographical Union No. 79, in that they were opposed to members of labor unions joining the militia of this or any other state until such laws are passed that will prevent the militia from being used to the detriment of labor organizations.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

A delegate referred to the "Coxey" march on Washington City, which is now in progress, for the purpose of changing the present current of national legislation. He gave notice that he might, by the time Coxey's march commences, introduce a resolution endorsing the scheme for government aid to municipalities in giving employment to the unemployed.

THE TUNNEL PROJECT.

It Will Be Up Before City Council Tomorrow Evening.

The project to cut a tunnel through Wheeling hill from Ninth or Tenth street by the city for the primary ob-

ject of effecting a great saving to travelers from the city to the suburban communities east of the hill, which was inaugurated through the efforts, at the start, of Mr. Richard Robertson, of the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly, encouraged by that body and the work and expense of preliminary survey undertaken by a committee of business men who employed Engineer Gilmore Brown, seems now to have a pretty good chance of success.

A meeting of the projectors was held Saturday evening at which Mr. Brown submitted his plans and estimates. The plans show the Ninth street route to be 350 feet shorter than the other. The tunnel would start at Market street and would slope toward the east at a grade of 1.2 feet in each 100 feet. The eastern terminus would be near Guenther's stone quarry; the total length would be 1,137 feet.

The length from Tenth street would be 1,480 feet. The start would be made at Alley C, and the eastern terminus would be 300 feet south of Baker street bridge; the grade in the tunnel, 6 inches per 100 feet. The plans are for a cut seventeen feet in height and twenty-two feet wide. The cost is estimated at \$75,000. The distance to the Baker street bridge would be shortened as follows: From the postoffice, 2,000 feet; from Fourteenth street, one-half mile; from Twelfth street, three-fourths mile, from Tenth street, all points north of Tenth street, and Island, one mile.

The plan of the projectors is to have the city and county jointly undertake the construction of the improvement, and the business men's and trades assembly committee will appear before council to-morrow evening and urge municipal encouragement. The county commissioners will also be seen at their next meeting. Mr. John A. Howard, county prosecutor, has agreed to give whatever legal advice is wanted by the committee.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Strangers in the City and Wheeling Folks Abroad.

F. A. Prichard, of Mannington, is a Melure guest.

C. W. Arnett and son, of Fairmont, are at the Stamm.

H. Gaines, of Gratton, registered at the Melure last night.

E. Meyers, of Sistersville, registered at the Windsor yesterday.

Mrs. F. M. Kiser, Mannington, registered at the Stamm yesterday.

Mr. George E. Johns, of Dayton, was in the city yesterday on his way east.

John Armstrong, jr., of Point Pleasant, is the guest of old friends on the Island.

John T. Pracht, foreman of the B. & O. junction shops, left yesterday for Gratton to attend a big meeting of railroad officials and attendants.

Miss Amelia Schwetfeger, of Virginia street, Island, arrived home on Saturday from a two months' trip to Point Pleasant, Charleston and Huntington.

A. D. Clements, of Andy; John Henderson, of Wellsburg; S. J. Robinson, of New Martinsville, and several members of the "District Fair" company are at the Behler.

Mr. and Mrs. I. Y. Hamilton, of Washington, Pa., were in the city yesterday, spending the day with their daughter, Mrs. John P. Glass, who is recovering from a serious illness.

D. C. Layne, of Fincastle, Ind., who was the engineer on the train in the terrible Battle Creek, Mich., railroad wreck when so many World's Fair tourists were killed, last fall, was here yesterday and registered at the Stamm.

D. G. Morgan, special agent of the Providence Washington Insurance Company, adjusted the Blankenship loss at Central City this morning and swapped yarns with his company's agent, Mr. A. B. Brode.—Huntington Herald.

Thomas Rateliff died Saturday evening at the home of his son, David Rateliff, on LaBelle street, aged 75. He was an old resident, and was generally respected. A wife and four children survive him. The funeral will be at 2 p. m. to-day.

The severest cases of rheumatism are cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla, the great blood purifier. Now is the time to take it. Hood's Cures.

FOR RENT—STORE ROOM ON Main street. Address Lock Box 339. fe27

FOR RENT—TWO STORE ROOMS in Music Theatre building. Inquire at 130 Main street. m17

FOR RENT—RESIDENCE NO. 33 South Penn street, Island. Inquire at No. 71 Twelfth street. m10-2MAW

FOR RENT—FIVE ROOMS IN THE front part of the residence at Selber's Garden. Possession April 1. Address CHARLES SEIBERT, or inquire at the Garden. m19

FOR RENT—A LARGE FOUR-story building, situated on Water street, adjoining St. Charles Hotel. Apply to J. A. HOLLEY, No. 62 Fifteenth street. j18

FOR RENT—SUITE OF FIVE rooms, 1419 Chapline street; water and gas. Suite of three rooms, near Wood Bros' plant, Suite of three rooms, near Wood Bros' plant, Suite of three rooms, near Wood Bros' plant. Inquire at 1419 Chapline street. m11

FOR RENT. Store room in Peabody Building. Office rooms in Peabody Building. Steam heat, elevator and all modern conveniences. Terms reasonable. J18

PEABODY INSURANCE CO., 1129 and 1131 Market Street.

FOR RENT. THE STORE ROOM, No. 147 Main Street, occupied at present by the Wheeling Drug Co. One flat, three rooms; Twenty-third street. One house, five rooms. Two city-third street. J18

F. H. LANGE.

FOR RENT. Second Story. CORNER MAIN AND TENTH STREETS. Specially suited for a Dentist's Office, or a Doctor's Office, or Residence. This apartment contains six rooms, ALL FRONTING ON THE STREETS, and has a

COMMODOUS HALL AND BATH ROOM. JAMES L. HAWLEY, 1420 Main St.

FOR RENT. A splendid opportunity for a good, energetic business man. This hotel, lately remodeled and with the new addition contains thirty-one pleasant and well-ventilated bed rooms, a double dining hall, a handsome bar and office. Connected with the hotel is stabling room for eighty-six head of horses. The business done in the past at this popular house is indicative of the demand for any party desirous of doing a paying business. Any further information desired can be furnished by calling at Busch & Sons', corner Broadway and Market streets, or writing to the owner, J17

A. DUSCH, Elm Grove.

FOR RENT. THE NEW BUSCH HOTEL.

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TEAS, SPICES, ETC.

Atlantic Tea Co.

MELEAD.

Lot Those Who Can Follow!

PRICE LIST:

Largo select Lemons, each.....	1
Clothes Pins, per dozen.....	1
Carpet Tacks, 8-ounce box.....	1
Large sack Salt, per sack.....	2
Choice Raisins, large, per pound.....	5
Choice Carolina Rice, per pound.....	5
New Lima Beans, per pound.....	5
New Split Peas, per pound.....	5
Fox's Corn Starch, per pound.....	5
Petti John Food, per package.....	11
Gold Dust, per package.....	20
Arm & Hammer Soda, per package.....	4
Sopline, per package.....	4
Rolled Oats, 7 pounds.....	25
Tapioca, 4 pounds.....	25
Glass Starch, 7 pounds.....	25
Mail Pouch Tobacco, per pound.....	28
Fairbank's Brown Soap, 6 bars.....	25

FREE CLUB ORDERS.—We will prepare freight to any railroad station 200 miles from any of our stores on orders amounting to \$10, sugar excepted.

Atlantic Tea Co.

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WANTED—A SECOND-HAND

WANTED—TRAVELING SALES-

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